

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00904 050705Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0904

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: POGV, PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS ON PRESENTATION OVER
PROTEST OF EMBARGO LIFTING

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0906, (B) NICOSIA 0907

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROLANDIS CALLED DCM IN APRIL 4
TO DELIVER FORMAL GOC NOTE OF PROTEST AGAINST THE US
ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO ASK FOR THE REPEAL OF
SECTION 620(X) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. TEXT OF
NOTE VERBALE TRANSMITTED REF A.

2. INENSUING DISCUSSION, ROLANDIS SAID HE RECOGNIZED
LANGUAGE OF NOTE WAS STRONG AND COULD EVEN
BE CONSIDERED INTEMPERATE BY SOME. HE HAD BEEN CRITICIZED
BY THE EDITOR OF RIGHT-WING SIMERINI, COSTIS HADJI COSTIS,
FOR MAKING SUCH A STRONG PROTEST. OTHERS, MOST IMPORTANTLY
ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS, HAD COMPLAINED THAT ROLANDIS HAD
BEEN TOO MODERATE IN SUBSEQUENT
BRIEFING OF JOURNALISTS (REF B). ROLANDIS SAID U.S.
ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE AWARE IT WAS HIS POSITION
THAT DESPITE POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO
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COUNTRIES, HE WOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE
RELATIONS. THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS LIES WITH THE WEST.
HE WILL DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO ASSURE THAT ANTI-AMERICAN
FEELING IS NOT CREATED AS THIS MIGHT LEAD TO DISAFFECTION
IN CYPRUS WITH THE WEST.

3. ASKING THAT THE DETAILS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH

CHRYSTOMOS BE DEPT CONFIDENTIAL, ROLANDIS SAID THAT THE ARCHBISHOP'S COMPLAINTS WERE THE MOST DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. IN HIS BRIEFING OF JOURNALISTS, ROLANDIS HAD DESCRIBED THE GOC PROTEST BUT HAD ALSO GIVEN A FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE U.S. POSITION, PARTICULARLY THE POINT THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES "THAT BY THE (ADMINISTRATION) DECISION, THE U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO EXERT POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON TURKEY AS REGARDS ITS APPROACH TO CYPRUS PROBLEM." ROLANDIS SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT HE HAD DESCRIBED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR'S BRIEFING OF AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS APRIL 2 RELEASE AND THE GOC PROTEST IN THE LATTER PART. AT LEAST THREE NEWSPAPERS IN GREECE PUBLISHED THE U.S. POSITION BUT LEFT OUT THE GOC PROTEST. CHRYSTOMOS WAS QUICK TO NOTE THIS AND SUGGESTED THAT ROLANDIS SHOULD STOP GIVING CREDIT TO THE U.S. FOR GOOD MOTIVES. ROLANDIS SAID PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AGREED WITH HIM THAT IT HAD BEEN APPROPRIATE TO GIVE US SIDE OF STORY.

4. WHILE ROLANDIS FEELS WE WILL GET THROUGH THE CURRENT WAVE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION DECISION WITH LITTLE DAMAGE TO THE US/GOC RELATIONSHIP, HE IS WORRIED THAT IF THE EMBARGO ACTUALLY IS LIFTED, A STRONGER ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING WILL DEVELOP. ON QUESTIONING BY DCM, HE CONCEDED THAT IF THE TURKISH SIDE NOW PRESENTS DISCUSSABLE PROPOSALS AND NEGOTIATIONS
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BEGIN, THE LIKELY DAMAGE TO THE RELATIONSHIP CAUSED BY LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL BE GREATLY MINIMIZED.
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